

done a remarkable job helping the communities he represents grow and prosper. Pete's never-ending work to bolster educational opportunities for our children is admirable. And his unflinching commitment to help communities provide better services and better jobs for their residents is unequalled.

Pete has never shied away from his commitments, a trait displayed not only in the Tennessee General Assembly, but also in the South Pacific during World War II. Pete's grit and determination to get the job done has benefitted a wonderful state and a grateful Nation.

The people of Bedford and Lincoln counties could not have asked for a better public servant. His leadership and work ethic will be sorely missed in the General Assembly. As his wife, Faith, once told me, "If ever a man had his heart in his work, Pete Phillips did." I cordially congratulate Pete on his distinguished career as a public servant and wish him well in future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO NEW LIFE MEMBERS  
AND OTHER MEMBERS OF GARY,  
INDIANA BRANCH OF NAACP

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 2002*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize and commend the members of the Gary, Indiana, branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). On Friday, May 3, 2002, the Gary NAACP will hold its 39th Annual Life Membership Banquet and Scholarship Dinner at the St. Timothy Community Church in Gary, Indiana.

This annual event is a major fundraiser for the Gary branch of the NAACP. The funds generated through this activity, and others like it, go directly to the organization's needed programs and advocacy efforts. In addition, the dinner serves to update and keep the community aware of the activities, accomplishments, and accolades of the local and national chapters of the NAACP on an annual basis.

The featured speaker at this gala event will be Ms. Janette Wilson, Director of Community Intervention and Human Relations for the Chicago Public School System. She has worked diligently to develop partnerships with local schools and public agencies. This network provides mentoring programs, community service programs and assistance with after-school homework centers.

This year, the Gary NAACP will honor seven outstanding community leaders for their lifelong efforts to further equality in society, as well as one sorority. Joining more than four hundred outstanding civil, community, and religious leaders of the region, the following distinguished individuals will be inducted as life members of the Gary NAACP: Larry Pruitt, Willie Watkins, Mary Dennis, Hollis Hite, George Tardy, Barbara Bolling, and Cherone Reed. Additionally, the Sigma Phi Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., will be inducted.

The Gary NAACP was organized in 1915 by a group of residents that felt there was a need for an organization that would monitor and defend the rights of African-Americans in North-

west Indiana. The organization focuses on providing better and more positive ways of addressing the important issues facing minorities in social and job-related settings. Along with its national organization, the Gary branch of the NAACP serves its community by combating injustice, discrimination, and unfair treatment in our society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the new life members, as well as the other members of the Gary NAACP for the efforts, activities, and leadership that these outstanding men and women have championed to improve the quality of life for all residents of Indiana's First Congressional District.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION  
TO RENAME THE POST OFFICE  
IN LAKE LINDEN, MI, AFTER  
THE HONORABLE PHILIP E.  
RUPPE

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 2002*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay much deserved tribute to former Congressman Philip Edward Ruppe, who ably represented the people of northern Michigan, in Congress, for over a decade.

This bill, introduced by Representative BART STUPAK, designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 600 Calumet Street in Lake Linden, Michigan, as the "Philip E. Ruppe Post Office Building." I am pleased to report to my colleagues that the entire Michigan House delegation has signed on as original cosponsors of the measure.

Congressman Ruppe, whose family has lived in northern Michigan since the late 19th Century, was born in Laurium, Michigan on September 29, 1926. He is not only an active civic leader but also a businessman, actively involved in the community, and a veteran, who served his country as a lieutenant in the United States Navy during the Korean conflict.

In 1966, Congressman Ruppe was elected by the people of northern Michigan to serve in the 90th Congress. He served his constituents faithfully until January 3, 1979. As a member of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, as well as the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, Congressman Ruppe was able to devote much of his focus to the specific needs of northern Michigan. Congressman Ruppe demonstrated his devotion to his constituents by becoming the first Congressman from the district to operate district offices.

Congressman Ruppe has dedicated his life to serving his community and his country. He is an example of everything that is good and decent in public service and this institution. Naming the post office in Lake Linden, Michigan is just one way we can pay tribute to this fine man and I urge support for the bill.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FORT  
HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY DE-  
BATE AND FINANCIAL PLANNING  
TEAMS

**HON. JERRY MORAN**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 2002*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, it has been a year of remembrance for Fort Hays State University, which is in the midst of celebrating its centennial year. Few events provide greater reason to pause and appreciate the continuing excellence of this university than the accomplishments of the last week. In the course of one week the university claimed not one, but two national championships. I stand today to recognize this tremendous feat. It is truly an honor to represent such an outstanding institution.

Two students from my own district, Joe Ramsey of Nickerson and Jason Regnier of Salina started this remarkable week by winning the Cross Examination Debate Association National Tournament. These students captured the individual team title and were honored as top speaker in the tournament. The team was challenged by opponents from a number of the country's most well known universities, however they proved that some of the brightest minds reside in western Kansas and at Fort Hays State University. I commend Joe Ramsey and Jason Regnier on their tremendous drive and resolve over the course of their competitive debate careers. Their success speaks highly of their talent and commitment, as well as that of their coach Dr. William Shanahan and teammates Brent Saindon and Paul Marbrey.

Following the triumphant return of the debate team, three more students from my district were declared national academic champions. This time Sarah Evans of Garfield, Steven Sutter, of Abilene and Nicolette Zeigler of Mankato were honored for their victory at the American Express Financial Planning Invitational. This prestigious competition tests the financial knowledge of students at top universities from across the country. Once again, Fort Hays State University students proved themselves among the best in the country. I commend these students for their dedication and energy in preparing for and attaining this victory. It is a clear testament to their financial knowledge, motivation, and academic ability. I also offer my thanks to Dr. Thomas Johansen and Dr. Rory Terry for preparing this team so very well.

It is a tremendous accomplishment to be recognized as the very best. This level of achievement would not have been possible without the leadership of President Edward Hammond and the support of many other members of the Fort Hays State University community.

I congratulate the Fort Hays State University Debate and Financial Planning Teams on their victories. They have helped make the history of Fort Hays State University that much richer in this its centennial year.